

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of displaying data from a data set in a tree map visualization, comprising:
 - prioritizing the data in the data set so as to associate a priority with
 - 5 respective elements of the data in the data set; and
 - generating the tree map visualization based on the data set where a location of boxes in the tree map visualization is based on the priority associated with the corresponding element.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the tree map visualization is generated so as to display the bounding boxes in a priority based pattern in the tree map visualization.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the priority based pattern comprises a pattern with one of ascending or descending priority diagonally from top to bottom of the tree map visualization.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority associated with a respective element is based on a data value of the data element utilized in generating the tree map visualization.
- 25 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority associated with a respective element is based on a data value of the data element that is not utilized in generating the tree map.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority associated with a respective element is based on metadata associated with the data element.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein prioritizing the data in the data set
- 30 comprises assigning a unique priority value to each element in the data set.
8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority associated with a respective element is dynamically determined.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority associated with a respective element is statically defined.
- 5 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the tree map visualization is generated so as to display the bounding boxes based on priority irrespective of whether the locations of the bounding boxes result in complete utilization of an available display area for the tree map visualization.
- 10 11. A tree map visualization displayed on a display device, comprising a plurality of bounding boxes, wherein a location of respective ones of the bounding boxes in the tree map visualization is based on corresponding priorities associated with the respective ones of the bounding boxes.
- 15 12. The tree map visualization of Claim 11, wherein a size of a bounding box in the plurality of bounding boxes is based on a first data value associated with the bounding box.
- 20 13. The tree map visualization of Claim 12, wherein a color and/or shade of the bounding box is based on a second data value associated with the bounding box.
- 25 14. The tree map visualization of Claim 13, wherein the priority corresponding to the bounding box comprises a third data value associated with the bounding box.
- 30 15. The tree map visualization of Claim 11, wherein the plurality of bounding boxes are arranged in one of ascending or descending priority from top to bottom of the tree map visualization.
16. The tree map visualization of Claim 11, wherein the tree map visualization further comprises at least one void region that does not contain a bounding box.

17. A system for displaying data from a data set in a tree map visualization, comprising:

5 means for prioritizing the data in the data set so as to associate a priority with respective elements of the data in the data set; and

means for generating the tree map visualization based on the data set where a location bounding boxes in the tree map visualization is based on the priority associated with the corresponding element.

10 18. A computer program product for displaying data from a data set in a tree map visualization, comprising:

computer readable program code configured to prioritize the data in the data set so as to associate a priority with respective elements of the data in the data set; and

15 computer readable program code configured to generate the tree map visualization based on the data set where a location of bounding boxes in the tree map visualization is based on the priority associated with the corresponding element.